Senate



General Assembly

File No. 379

February Session, 2014

Substitute Senate Bill No. 283

Senate, April 7, 2014

The Committee on Banks reported through SEN. LEONE of the 27th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE BANKING LAWS, THE UNIFORM COMMERCIAL CODE, THE ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFER ACT AND MORTGAGORS IN GOOD STANDING.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. Subdivision (3) of section 36a-485 of the general statutes is
- 2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from
- 3 passage):
- 4 (3) "Branch office" means a location other than the main office at
- 5 which a licensee or any person on behalf of a licensee acts as a
- 6 mortgage lender, mortgage correspondent lender, [or] mortgage
- 7 broker or mortgage loan originator;
- 8 Sec. 2. Subdivision (2) of section 36a-800 of the 2014 supplement to
- 9 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
- 10 thereof (*Effective from passage*):
- 11 (2) "Consumer collection agency" means any person (A) engaged as
- 12 a third party in the business of collecting or receiving for payment for

others of any account, bill or other indebtedness from a consumer debtor, (B) engaged directly or indirectly in the business of collecting any account, bill or other indebtedness from a consumer debtor for such person's own account if the indebtedness was acquired from another person and if the indebtedness was either delinquent or in default at the time it was acquired, or (C) engaged in the business of collecting or receiving for payment property tax from a property tax debtor on behalf of a municipality, including any person who, by any device, subterfuge or pretense, makes a pretended purchase or takes a pretended assignment of accounts from any other person or municipality of such indebtedness for the purpose of evading the provisions of sections 36a-800 to 36a-810, inclusive, as amended by this <u>act</u>. It includes persons who furnish collection systems carrying a name which simulates the name of a consumer collection agency and who supply forms or form letters to be used by the creditor, even though such forms direct the consumer debtor or property tax debtor to make payments directly to the creditor rather than to such fictitious agency. "Consumer collection agency" further includes any person who, in attempting to collect or in collecting such person's own accounts or claims from a consumer debtor, uses a fictitious name or any name other than such person's own name which would indicate to the consumer debtor that a third person is collecting or attempting to collect such account or claim. "Consumer collection agency" does not include (i) an individual employed on the staff of a licensed consumer collection agency, or by a creditor who is exempt from licensing, when attempting to collect on behalf of such consumer collection agency, (ii) persons not primarily engaged in the collection of debts from consumer debtors who receive funds in escrow for subsequent distribution to others, including, but not limited to, real estate brokers and lenders holding funds of borrowers for payment of taxes or insurance, (iii) any public officer or a person acting under the order of any court, (iv) any member of the bar of this state, (v) a person who services loans or accounts for the owners thereof when the arrangement includes, in addition to requesting payment from delinquent consumer debtors, the providing of other services such as

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receipt of payment, accounting, record-keeping, data processing services and remitting, for loans or accounts which are current as well as those which are delinquent, (vi) a bank or out-of-state bank, as defined in section 36a-2, and (vii) a subsidiary or affiliate of a bank or out-of-state bank, [to the extent] provided such affiliate or subsidiary is not primarily engaged in the business of purchasing and collecting upon delinquent [debts. For purposes of this subparagraph, "account, bill or other indebtedness" shall not include] debt, other than delinquent debt secured by real property. Any person not included in the definition contained in this subdivision is, for purposes of sections 36a-645 to 36a-647, inclusive, a "creditor", as defined in section 36a-645;

- Sec. 3. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 36a-671d of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
 - (a) (1) No debt negotiation license, and no renewal thereof, shall be granted unless the applicant has filed the surety bond required by this section, which bond shall be written by a surety authorized to write such bonds in this state.
 - (2) No application for a debt negotiation license for a main office, and no renewal of such a license, shall be granted unless the applicant has filed a single surety bond with the commissioner in an aggregate amount of fifty thousand dollars, or such other amount required by subdivision (4) of this subsection. No application for a debt negotiation license branch office, and no renewal of such a license, shall be granted unless the applicant has identified such branch office as a bonded location by addendum to the main office surety bond required by this section.
 - (3) Each debt negotiation licensee shall file a single surety bond that complies with the requirements of this section in connection with the main office license with the commissioner in an aggregate amount of fifty thousand dollars or such other amount required in subdivision (4) of this subsection, which bond shall identify any licensed branch office as a bonded location on such bond by addendum.

(4) In the case of a debt negotiation licensee engaging or offering to engage in the business of negotiating residential mortgage loans on behalf of mortgagors, such debt negotiation licensee shall file a bond in the penal sum amount set forth in subsection [(f)] (e) of this section based on the aggregate dollar amount of the residential mortgage loans negotiated or offered to be negotiated by its sponsored mortgage loan originator licensees. The principal on a bond required by this subdivision shall annually confirm that it maintains the required penal sum in the amount required by this subdivision. Not later than September 1, 2012, and each September first thereafter, a licensee shall file with the commissioner such information as the commissioner may require to confirm that the penal sum of the bond remains consistent with the amount required by this section. The principal shall file not later than September first of the applicable year, or on such other date as the commissioner may require pursuant to subsection [(h)] (g) of this section, any bond rider or endorsement to the surety bond on file with the commissioner to reflect any changes necessary to maintain the surety bond coverage required by this section.

(b) The form of any surety bond submitted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be approved by the Attorney General. Any surety bond filed under subsection (a) of this section shall be conditioned upon the debt negotiation licensee and any sponsored mortgage loan originator licensee faithfully performing any and all written agreements or commitments with or for the benefit of debtors and mortgagors, as applicable, truly and faithfully accounting for all funds received from a debtor or mortgagor by the principal or a mortgage loan originator sponsored by the principal in the principal's capacity as debt negotiation licensee, and conducting such business consistent with the provisions of sections 36a-485 to 36a-498f, inclusive, <u>as amended by this act</u>, 36a-534a, 36a-534b and 36a-671 to [36a-671d] 36a-671e, inclusive, as amended by this act. Any debtor or mortgagor who may be damaged by a failure to perform any written agreements, by the wrongful conversion of funds paid by a debtor or mortgagor to a debt negotiation licensee or mortgage loan originator licensee, or by conduct inconsistent with the provisions of sections 36a-485 to 36a-

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116 498f, inclusive, as amended by this act, 36a-534a, 36a-534b and 36a-671 117 to [36a-671d] 36a-671e, inclusive, as amended by this act, may proceed 118 on any such surety bond against the principal or surety thereon, or 119 both, to recover damages. The commissioner may proceed on any such 120 surety bond against the principal or surety thereon, or both, to collect 121 any civil penalty imposed upon the licensee pursuant to subsection (a) 122 of section 36a-50 and any unpaid costs of examination of a licensee as 123 determined pursuant to section 36a-65. The proceeds of any bond, 124 even if commingled with other assets of the principal, shall be deemed 125 by operation of law to be held in trust for the benefit of such claimants 126 against the principal in the event of bankruptcy of the principal and 127 shall be immune from attachment by creditors and judgment creditors. 128 Any bond required by this section shall be maintained during the 129 entire period of the license granted to the applicant, and the aggregate 130 liability under any such bond shall not exceed the penal amount of the 131 The principal shall notify the commissioner of the 132 commencement of an action on the bond. When an action is 133 commenced on a principal's bond, the commissioner may require the 134 filing of a new bond and immediately on recovery on any action on the 135 bond, the principal shall file a new bond. Any mortgagor or 136 prospective mortgagor who may be damaged by a failure of the debt 137 negotiation licensee or mortgage loan originator licensee to satisfy a 138 judgment against the licensee arising from the negotiation of or offer to 139 negotiate a nonprime home loan, as defined in section 36a-760, as 140 amended by this act, may proceed on such bond against the principal 141 or surety on such bond, or both, to recover the amount of the 142 judgment.

- Sec. 4. Subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of section 36a-671d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
- (2) A debt negotiation licensee sponsoring and bonding at least one mortgage loan originator as an exempt registrant under subdivision (2) of subsection (a) and subsection [(c)] (d) of section 36a-487 shall file a bond with a penal sum in the following amount:

(A) If the aggregate dollar amount of all residential mortgage loans negotiated or offered to be negotiated by all sponsored mortgage loan originators during the preceding twelve-month period ending July thirty-first of the current year is less than thirty million dollars, the penal sum of the bond shall be fifty thousand dollars;

- (B) If the aggregate dollar amount of all residential mortgage loans negotiated or offered to be negotiated by all sponsored mortgage loan originators during the preceding twelve-month period ending July thirty-first of the current year is thirty million dollars or more but less than fifty million dollars, the penal sum of the bond shall be one hundred thousand dollars; and
- (C) If the aggregate dollar amount of all residential mortgage loans negotiated or offered to be negotiated by all sponsored mortgage loan originators during the preceding twelve-month period ending July thirty-first of the current year is fifty million dollars or more, the penal sum of the bond shall be one hundred fifty thousand dollars.
- Sec. 5. Section 36a-746a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
- As used in this section and sections 36a-746b to 36a-746g, inclusive:
- 169 (1) "APR" means the annual percentage rate for the loan calculated 170 according to the provisions of the federal Truth-in-Lending Act, 15 171 USC Section 1601 et seq., as amended from time to time, and the 172 regulations promulgated thereunder. For open-end lines of credit, 173 "APR" means the highest corresponding annual percentage rate 174 required to be disclosed under 12 CFR [226.6(a)(2) and 226.14(b)] 175 1026.6(a)(2) and 1026.14(b), as amended from time to time, excluding 176 any maximum rates required to be disclosed or stated pursuant to 12 177 CFR [226.6(a)(2) or 226.30] 1026.6(a)(2) or 1026.30, as amended from 178 time to time. For closed-end loans, "APR" means the annual percentage 179 rate required to be disclosed under 12 CFR [226.18(e)] 1026.18(e), as 180 amended from time to time, excluding any maximum rates required to 181 be disclosed or stated pursuant to 12 CFR [226.18(f) or 226.30]

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182 1026.18(f) or 1026.30, as amended from time to time. For purposes of

- this subdivision, any variable rate calculation shall use an index value
- in effect within forty-five days prior to consummation;
- 185 (2) "Broker" means a person who, for a fee, commission or other valuable consideration, negotiates, solicits, arranges, places or finds a
- 187 high cost home loan that is to be made by a lender;
- 188 (3) "Consummation" means the time that a borrower becomes contractually obligated on a loan or extension of credit;
- 190 (4) "High cost home loan" means any loan or extension of credit,
- including an open-end line of credit but excluding a reverse mortgage
- transaction, as defined in 12 CFR [226.33] 1026.33, as amended from
- time to time:
- 194 (A) In which the borrower is a natural person;
- 195 (B) The proceeds of which are to be used primarily for personal,
- 196 family or household purposes;
- 197 (C) In which the loan is secured by a mortgage upon any interest in
- one-to-four family residential property, as defined in section 36a-485,
- as amended by this act, located in this state that is, or, when the loan is
- 200 made, is intended to be used or occupied by the borrower as a
- 201 principal residence; and
- 202 (D) In which the APR at consummation is greater than the yield on
- 203 Treasury securities having comparable periods of maturity to the loan
- 204 maturity as of the fifteenth day of the month immediately preceding
- 205 the month in which the application for the loan or extension of credit is
- 206 received by the lender, by more than the number of percentage points
- 207 specified in 12 CFR [226.32(a)(1)(i)] 1026.32(a)(1)(i), as amended from
- 208 time to time;
- 209 (5) "Interim interest" means interest for the period from funding to
- 210 the start of amortization paid by a borrower at or before
- 211 consummation of a closed-end loan where such amortization begins

- 212 sixty-two days or less after funding;
- 213 (6) "Lender" means any person who originates one or more high 214 cost home loans; and
- 215 (7) "Prepaid finance charge" means any finance charge determined 216 in accordance with 12 CFR [226.4] 1026.4, as amended from time to 217 time, that is paid separately in cash or by check before or at 218 consummation of a loan or extension of credit or withheld from the 219 proceeds of such transaction at any time, except the term includes any 220 fees or commissions payable to the lender or broker in connection with 221 the sale of credit life, accident, health, disability or unemployment 222 insurance products or unrelated goods or services sold in conjunction 223 with the loan or extension of credit when the cost of such insurance 224 products or goods or services is prepaid with the proceeds of the loan 225 or extension of credit and financed as part of the principal amount of 226 the loan or extension of credit, and excludes premiums, fees and any 227 other amounts paid to a governmental agency, any amounts required 228 to be escrowed by a governmental agency and interim interest.
 - Sec. 6. Subdivision (1) of section 36a-746c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
 - (1) For a loan with a term of less than seven years, a payment schedule with regular periodic payments that when aggregated do not fully amortize the outstanding principal balance, except that this limitation does not apply to a loan with maturities of less than one year if the purpose of the loan is a bridge loan, as used in 12 CFR [226.32] 1026.32, as amended from time to time, connected with the acquisition or construction of a dwelling intended to become the borrower's principal dwelling;
- Sec. 7. Section 36a-758 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
- 242 Any person who makes any first mortgage loan, as defined in

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243 section 36a-485, as amended by this act, or any secondary mortgage 244 loan, as defined in section 36a-485, as amended by this act, shall, at the 245 time of consummation of such loan or at the termination of any right to 246 rescind the loan transaction under 12 CFR [226] 1026, as amended from 247 time to time, whichever is later, pay the loan proceeds to the 248 mortgagor, to the mortgagor's attorney, to the mortgagee's attorney or 249 to any other person specified in any settlement statement, any written 250 agreement between the mortgagor and the mortgagee or any written 251 instruction of the mortgagor, by a certified, bank treasurer's or 252 cashier's check or by means of wire transfer.

- Sec. 8. Subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 36a-760e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
- 256 (3) For a loan with a term of less than seven years, a payment 257 schedule with regular periodic payments that when aggregated do not 258 fully amortize the outstanding principal balance, except that this 259 limitation does not apply to a loan with maturities of less than one 260 year if the purpose of the loan is a bridge loan, as used in 12 CFR 261 [226.32] 1026.32, as amended from time to time, connected with the 262 acquisition or construction of a dwelling intended to become the 263 borrower's principal dwelling;
- Sec. 9. Section 36a-671 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
 - (a) As used in this section and sections 36a-671a to [36a-671d] 36a-671e, inclusive, as amended by this act, (1) "debt negotiation" means, for or with the expectation of a fee, commission or other valuable consideration, assisting a debtor in negotiating or attempting to negotiate on behalf of a debtor the terms of a debtor's obligations with one or more mortgagees or creditors of the debtor, including the negotiation of short sales of residential property or foreclosure rescue services; (2) "debtor" means any individual who has incurred indebtedness or owes a debt for personal, family or household purposes; (3) "mortgagee" means the original lender under a mortgage

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loan secured by residential property or its agents, successors or assigns; (4) "mortgagor" means a debtor who is an owner of residential property, including, but not limited to, a single-family unit in a common interest community, who is also the borrower under a mortgage encumbering such residential property; (5) "short sale" means the sale of residential property by a mortgagor for an amount less than the outstanding balance owed on the loan secured by such property where, prior to the sale, the mortgagee or an assignee of the mortgagee agrees to accept less than the outstanding loan balance in full or partial satisfaction of the mortgage debt and the proceeds of the sale are paid to the mortgagee or an assignee of the mortgagee; (6) "foreclosure rescue services" means services related to or promising assistance in connection with (A) avoiding or delaying actual or anticipated foreclosure proceedings concerning residential property, or (B) curing or otherwise addressing a default or failure to timely pay with respect to a mortgage loan secured by residential property, and includes, but is not limited to, the offer, arrangement or placement of a mortgage loan secured by residential property or other extension of credit when those services are advertised, offered or promoted in the context of foreclosure related services; and (7) "residential property" means one-to-four family owner-occupied real property.

(b) No person shall engage or offer to engage in debt negotiation in this state without a license issued under this section for each location where debt negotiation will be conducted. Any person desiring to obtain such a license shall file with the commissioner an application under oath, setting forth such information as the commissioner may require. Each applicant for a license and each licensee shall notify the commissioner of any change in the applicant's business from that stated in the application for the license. A person is engaging in debt negotiation in this state if such person: (1) Has a place of business located within this state; (2) has a place of business located outside of this state and the debtor is a resident of this state who negotiates or agrees to the terms of the services in person, by mail, by telephone or via the Internet; or (3) has its place of business located outside of this state and the services concern a debt that is secured by property

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(c) An application for an original or renewal debt negotiation license shall be in writing on a form provided by the commissioner and shall include (1) the history of criminal convictions of the (A) applicant, (B) partners, if the applicant is a partnership, (C) members, if the applicant is a limited liability company or association, or (D) officers, directors and principal employees, if the applicant is a corporation; and (2) sufficient information pertaining to the history of criminal convictions, in a form acceptable to the commissioner, on such applicant, partners, members, officers, directors and principal employees as the commissioner deems necessary to make the findings under subsection (d) of this section. The commissioner, in accordance with section 29-17a, may conduct a state and national criminal history records check of the applicant and of each partner, member, officer, director and principal employee of the applicant. The commissioner may deem an application for a debt negotiation license abandoned if the applicant fails to respond to any request for information required under sections 36a-671 to [36a-671d] <u>36a-671e</u>, inclusive, or any regulations adopted pursuant to said sections 36a-671 to [36a-671d] 36a-671e, inclusive. The commissioner shall notify the applicant, in writing, that if the applicant fails to submit such information not later than sixty days after the date on which such request for information was made, the application shall be deemed abandoned. An application filing fee paid prior to the date an application is deemed abandoned pursuant to this subsection shall not be refunded. Abandonment of an application pursuant to this subsection shall not preclude the applicant from submitting a new application for a license under sections 36a-671 to [36a-671d] 36a-671e, inclusive.

(d) If the commissioner finds, upon the filing of an application for a debt negotiation license, that: (1) The financial responsibility, character, reputation, integrity and general fitness of the (A) applicant, (B) partners thereof, if the applicant is a partnership, (C) members, if the applicant is a limited liability company or association, and (D) officers, directors and principal employees, if the applicant is a corporation, are

such as to warrant belief that the business will be operated soundly and efficiently, in the public interest and consistent with the purposes of sections 36a-671 to [36a-671d] 36a-671e, inclusive; and (2) the applicant is solvent and no proceeding in bankruptcy, receivership or assignment for the benefit of creditors has been commenced against the applicant, the commissioner may thereupon issue the applicant a debt negotiation license. Such debt negotiation license shall not be transferable. Any change of location of a licensee shall require prior written notice to the commissioner. No licensee shall use any name unless such name has been approved by the commissioner. If the commissioner fails to make such findings, the commissioner shall not issue a license and shall notify the applicant of the reasons for such The commissioner may deny an application if the denial. commissioner finds that the applicant or any partner, member, officer, director or principal employee of the applicant has been convicted of any misdemeanor involving any aspect of the debt negotiation business or any felony. Any denial of an application by the commissioner shall, when applicable, be subject to the provisions of section 46a-80. Withdrawal of an application for a license shall become effective upon receipt by the commissioner of a notice of intent to withdraw such application. The commissioner may deny a license up to the date one year after the effective date of withdrawal.

(e) Each applicant for an original or renewal debt negotiation license shall, at the time of making such application, pay to the commissioner an application fee of one thousand six hundred dollars, provided, if such application is filed not earlier than one year before the date such license will expire, such person shall pay a license fee of eight hundred dollars. Each such license shall expire at the close of business on September thirtieth of the odd-numbered year following its issuance unless such license is renewed. Each licensee shall, on or before September first of the year in which the license expires, file such renewal application as the commissioner may require. Whenever an application for a license is filed under this section by any person who was a licensee under this section and whose license expired less than sixty days prior to the date such application was filed, such application

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shall be accompanied by a one-hundred-dollar processing fee in addition to the application fee.

- (f) If the commissioner determines that a check filed with the commissioner to pay an application fee has been dishonored, the commissioner shall automatically suspend the license or a renewal license that has been issued but is not yet effective. The commissioner shall give the licensee notice of the automatic suspension pending proceedings for revocation or refusal to renew and an opportunity for a hearing on such actions in accordance with section 36a-51.
- (g) No abatement of the license fee shall be made if the license is surrendered, revoked or suspended prior to the expiration of the period for which it was issued. The fee required by subsection (e) of this section shall be nonrefundable.
- Sec. 10. Subsection (a) of section 36a-671a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
 - (a) The commissioner may suspend, revoke or refuse to renew any license or take any other action, in accordance with the provisions of section 36a-51, for any reason that would be sufficient grounds for the commissioner to deny application for a license under sections 36a-671 to 36a-671e, inclusive, as amended by this act, or if the commissioner finds that the licensee or any proprietor, director, officer, member, partner, shareholder, trustee, employee or agent of such licensee has done any of the following: (1) Made any material misstatement in the application; (2) committed any fraud or misappropriated funds; (3) violated any of the provisions of sections 36a-671 to [36a-671d] 36a-671e, inclusive, as amended by this act, or any other law or regulation applicable to the conduct of its business; or (4) failed to perform any agreement with a debtor.
- Sec. 11. Subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 36a-486 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(b) (1) No person licensed as a mortgage lender, mortgage correspondent lender or mortgage broker shall engage the services of a mortgage loan originator or of a loan processor or underwriter required to be licensed under this section unless such mortgage loan originator or loan processor or underwriter is licensed under section unless specifically 36a-489. An individual, exempted subdivision (2) of this subsection, shall not engage in the business of a mortgage loan originator on behalf of a licensee or a person exempt under section 36a-487 with respect to any residential mortgage loan without first obtaining and maintaining annually a license as a mortgage loan originator under section 36a-489. An individual, unless specifically exempted under subdivision (2) of this subsection, shall be deemed to be engaged in the business of a mortgage loan originator if such individual: (A) Acts as a mortgage loan originator in connection with any residential mortgage loan on behalf of a licensee or person exempt under section 36a-487; or (B) makes any representation to the public through advertising or other means of communication that such individual can or will act as a mortgage loan originator on behalf of a licensee or person exempt under section 36a-487. Each licensed mortgage loan originator and each licensed loan processor or underwriter shall register with and maintain a valid unique identifier issued by the system. No individual may act as a mortgage loan originator for more than one person at the same time. No loan processor or underwriter licensee may be sponsored by more than one person at a time. The license of a mortgage loan originator or a loan processor or underwriter is not effective during any period when such mortgage loan originator or a loan processor or underwriter is not sponsored by a licensed mortgage lender, mortgage correspondent lender or mortgage broker, or by a person registered as an exempt registrant under subsection [(c)] (d) of section 36a-487, or during any period in which the license of the mortgage lender, mortgage correspondent lender or mortgage broker with whom such originator or loan processor or underwriter is associated has been suspended. Either the mortgage loan originator, the loan processor or underwriter or the sponsor may file a notification of the termination of sponsorship

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- with the system.
- Sec. 12. Subdivisions (3) to (6), inclusive, of subsection (d) of section
- 449 36a-492 of the general statutes are repealed and the following is
- 450 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
- 451 (3) Effective October 1, 2011, an exempt registrant under subsection
- 452 [(c)] (d) of section 36a-487 who is exempt from licensing under
- subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 36a-487 shall file a bond in a
- 454 penal sum of one hundred thousand dollars the first time such exempt
- 455 registrant sponsors a mortgage loan originator.
- 456 (4) Effective October 1, 2011, an exempt registrant under subsection
- 457 [(c)] (d) of section 36a-487 who is exempt from licensure under
- subsection (b) of section 36a-487 shall file a bond in a penal sum of fifty
- 459 thousand dollars the first time such exempt registrant sponsors a
- 460 mortgage loan originator.
- 461 (5) Effective October 1, 2011, an exempt registrant under subsection
- 462 [(c)] (d) of section 36a-487, as who is exempt from licensure under
- subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 36a-487 shall file a bond in a
- penal sum as set forth in section 36a-671d, as amended by this act.
- 465 (6) (A) For mortgage lender and mortgage correspondent lender
- licensees, and, after October 1, 2011, persons sponsoring and bonding
- at least one mortgage loan originator as an exempt registrant under
- 468 subsection [(c)] (d) of section 36a-487 and who are exempt from
- licensing under subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 36a-487 if (i)
- 470 the aggregate dollar amount of all residential mortgage loans
- 471 originated by such licensee at all licensed locations or by the exempt
- 472 registrant during the preceding twelve-month period ending July
- 473 thirty-first of the current year is less than thirty million dollars, the
- penal sum of the bond shall be one hundred thousand dollars; (ii) the
- 475 aggregate dollar amount of all residential mortgage loans originated
- 476 by such licensee at all licensed locations or by the exempt registrant
- 477 during the preceding twelve-month period ending July thirty-first of
- 478 the current year is thirty million dollars or more but less than one

hundred million dollars, the penal sum of the bond shall be two hundred thousand dollars; (iii) the aggregate dollar amount of all residential mortgage loans originated by such licensee at all licensed locations or by the exempt registrant during the preceding twelvementh period ending July thirty-first of the current year is one hundred million dollars or more but less than two hundred fifty million dollars, the penal sum of the bond shall be three hundred thousand dollars; and (iv) the aggregate dollar amount of all residential mortgage loans originated by such licensee at all licensed locations or by the exempt registrant during the preceding twelvementh period ending July thirty-first of the current year is two hundred fifty million dollars or more, the penal sum of the bond shall be five hundred thousand dollars.

(B) For mortgage broker licensees and, after October 1, 2011, persons who are sponsoring and bonding at least one mortgage loan originator as an exempt registrant under subsection [(c)] (d) of section 36a-487 and who are exempt from licensing under subsection (b) or (c) of section 36a-487 if (i) the aggregate dollar amount of all residential mortgage loans originated by such licensee at all licensed locations or by the exempt registrant during the preceding twelve-month period ending July thirty-first of the current year is less than thirty million dollars, the penal sum of the bond shall be fifty thousand dollars; (ii) the aggregate dollar amount of all residential mortgage loans originated by such licensee at all licensed locations or by the exempt registrant during the preceding twelve-month period ending July thirty-first of the current year is thirty million dollars or more but less than fifty million dollars, the penal sum of the bond shall be one hundred thousand dollars; and (iii) the aggregate dollar amount of all residential mortgage loans originated by such licensee at all licensed locations or by the exempt registrant during the preceding twelvemonth period ending July thirty-first of the current year is fifty million dollars or more, the penal sum of the bond shall be one hundred fifty thousand dollars.

Sec. 13. Subsection (a) of section 36a-17 of the general statutes is

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repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

- (a) The commissioner, in the commissioner's discretion, may, subject to the provisions of section 36a-21 and the Freedom of Information Act, as defined in section 1-200_z [;] (1) make such public or private investigations or examinations within or outside this state, concerning any person subject to the jurisdiction of the commissioner, as the commissioner deems necessary to carry out the duties of the commissioner, (2) require or permit any person to testify, produce a record or file a statement in writing, under oath, or otherwise as the commissioner determines, as to all the facts and circumstances concerning the matter to be investigated or about which an action or proceeding is pending, and (3) publish information concerning any violation of any provision of the general statutes within the jurisdiction of the commissioner or any regulation or order adopted or issued under such provision.
- Sec. 14. Subsection (g) of section 36b-33 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective* 531 October 1, 2014):
 - (g) Every applicant for registration under sections 36b-2 to 36b-34, inclusive, every investment adviser exempt under subsection (e) of section 36b-6, and every issuer, other than the United States, any state, Canada, any other foreign government with which the United States currently maintains diplomatic relations, or any issuer of covered securities under Section 18(b)(1) of the Securities Act of 1933, which proposes to offer a security in this state through any person acting on an agency basis in the common-law sense shall file with the commissioner, in such form as the commissioner by regulation prescribes, an irrevocable consent appointing the commissioner or the commissioner's successor in office to be his or her attorney to receive service of any lawful process in any noncriminal suit, action, or proceeding against him or her or his or her successor executor or administrator which arises under sections 36b-2 to 36b-34, inclusive, or

any regulation or order thereunder after the consent has been filed, with the same force and validity as if served personally on the person filing the consent. A person who has filed such a consent in connection with a previous registration need not file another. Service may be made by leaving a copy of the process in the office of the commissioner, but it is not effective unless (1) the plaintiff, who may be the commissioner in a suit, action, or proceeding instituted by the commissioner, forthwith sends notice of the service and a copy of the process by registered mail, return receipt requested, certified mail, return receipt requested, or [by] any express delivery carrier that provides a dated delivery receipt, to the defendant or respondent at the defendant's or respondent's last address on file with the commissioner, and (2) the plaintiff's affidavit of compliance with this subsection is filed in the case on or before the return day of the process, if any, or within such further time as the court allows.

Sec. 15. Subsection (h) of section 36b-33 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2014*):

(h) When any person, including any nonresident of this state, engages in conduct prohibited or made actionable by sections 36b-2 to 36b-34, inclusive, or any regulation or order thereunder, and such person has not filed a consent to service of process under subsection (g) of this section and personal jurisdiction over such person cannot otherwise be obtained in this state, that conduct shall be considered equivalent to such person's appointment of the commissioner or the commissioner's successor in office to be such person's attorney to receive service of any lawful process in any noncriminal suit, action, or proceeding against such person or such person's successor executor or administrator which grows out of that conduct and which is brought under said sections or any regulation or order thereunder, with the same force and validity as if served on such person personally. Service may be made by leaving a copy of the process in the office of the commissioner, and it is not effective unless (1) the plaintiff, who may be the commissioner in a suit, action, or proceeding instituted by the

commissioner, forthwith sends notice of the service and a copy of the process by registered mail, return receipt requested, certified mail, return receipt requested, or [by] any express delivery carrier that provides a dated delivery receipt, to the defendant or respondent at the defendant's or respondent's last known address or takes other steps which are reasonably calculated to give actual notice, and (2) the plaintiff's affidavit of compliance with this subsection is filed in the case on or before the return day of the process, if any, or within such further time as the court allows.

Sec. 16. Subsections (e) and (f) of section 36b-62 of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2014*):

(e) Every seller proposing to sell or offer for sale a business opportunity in this state or from this state directly or through any person acting on an agency basis, as determined by reference to the principles of common law, shall file with the commissioner, in such form as the commissioner by regulation, adopted pursuant to section 36b-77, or order prescribes, an irrevocable consent appointing the commissioner to be the seller's attorney to receive service of any lawful process in any noncriminal suit, action or proceeding against the seller or the seller's successor, executor or administrator that arises under sections 36b-60 to 36b-80, inclusive, or any regulation or order adopted or issued under said sections after the consent has been filed, with the same force and validity as if served personally on the person filing the consent. Service may be made by leaving a copy of the process in the office of the commissioner, but such service shall not be effective unless (1) the plaintiff, who may be the commissioner in a suit, action or proceeding instituted by the commissioner, forthwith sends notice of the service and a copy of the process by registered mail, return receipt requested, certified mail, return receipt requested, or [by] any express delivery carrier that provides a dated delivery receipt, to the defendant or respondent at the defendant's or respondent's last address on file with the commissioner, and (2) the plaintiff's affidavit of compliance with this subsection is filed in the case on or before the

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return day of the process, if any, or within such further time as the court allows.

- (f) When any person, including any nonresident of this state, engages in conduct prohibited or made actionable by sections 36b-60 to 36b-80, inclusive, or any regulation or order adopted or issued under said sections, and such person has not filed a consent to service of process under subsection (e) of this section and personal jurisdiction over such person cannot otherwise be obtained in this state, such conduct shall be considered equivalent to such person's appointment of the commissioner to be such person's attorney to receive service of any lawful process in any noncriminal suit, action or proceeding against such person or such person's successor, executor or administrator that grows out of such conduct and that is brought under said sections or any regulation or order adopted or issued under said sections, with the same force and validity as if served on such person personally. Service may be made by leaving a copy of the process in the office of the commissioner, but such service shall not be effective unless (1) the plaintiff, who may be the commissioner in a suit, action or proceeding instituted by the commissioner, forthwith sends notice of the service and a copy of the process by registered mail, return receipt requested, certified mail, return receipt requested, or [by] any express delivery carrier that provides a dated delivery receipt, to the defendant or respondent at the defendant's or respondent's last known address, and (2) the plaintiff's affidavit of compliance with this subsection is filed in the case on or before the return day of the process, if any, or within such further time as the court allows.
- Sec. 17. Section 52-367b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2014*):
 - (a) Execution may be granted pursuant to this section against any debts due from any financial institution to a judgment debtor who is a natural person, except to the extent such debts are protected from execution by sections 52-352a, 52-352b, 52-352c of the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to 1983, 52-354 of the general statutes, revision

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of 1958, revised to 1983, 52-361 of the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to 1983 and section 52-361a, as well as by any other laws or regulations of this state or of the United States which exempt such debts from execution.

(b) If execution is desired against any such debt, the plaintiff requesting the execution shall make application to the clerk of the court. The application shall be accompanied by a fee of one hundred dollars payable to the clerk of the court for the administrative costs of complying with the provisions of this section which fee may be recoverable by the judgment creditor as a taxable cost of the action. In a IV-D case, the request for execution shall be accompanied by an affidavit signed by the serving officer attesting to an overdue support amount of five hundred dollars or more which accrued after the entry of an initial family support judgment. If the papers are in order, the clerk shall issue such execution containing a direction that the officer serving such execution shall, within seven days from the receipt by the serving officer of such execution, make demand (1) upon the main office of any financial institution having its main office within the county of the serving officer, or (2) if such main office is not within the serving officer's county and such financial institution has one or more branch offices within such county, upon an employee of such a branch office, such employee and branch office having been designated by the financial institution in accordance with regulations adopted by the Banking Commissioner, in accordance with chapter 54, for payment of any such nonexempt debt due to the judgment debtor and, after having made such demand, shall serve a true and attested copy of the execution, together with the affidavit and exemption claim form prescribed by subsection (k) of this section, with the serving officer's actions endorsed thereon, with the financial institution officer upon whom such demand is made. The serving officer shall not serve more than one financial institution execution per judgment debtor at a time, including copies thereof. After service of an execution on one financial institution, the serving officer shall not serve the same execution or a copy thereof upon another financial institution until receiving confirmation from the preceding financial institution that the judgment

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debtor had insufficient funds at the preceding financial institution available for collection to satisfy the execution, provided any such additional service is made not later than forty-five days from the receipt by the serving officer of such execution. After service of an execution on a financial institution, the serving officer shall not subsequently serve the same execution or a copy thereof upon such financial institution if an electronic direct deposit from a readily identifiable source described in subsection (c) of this section was made to the judgment debtor's account during the look-back period, as described in subsection (c) of this section. If no such deposit was made, the serving officer may subsequently serve the same execution or a copy thereof upon such institution, provided such execution has not expired or otherwise become unenforceable.

(c) If any such financial institution upon which such execution is served and upon which such demand is made is indebted to the judgment debtor, the financial institution shall remove from the judgment debtor's account the amount of such indebtedness not exceeding the amount due on such execution before its midnight deadline, as defined in section 42a-4-104. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, if electronic direct deposits that are readily identifiable as exempt federal veterans' benefits, Social Security benefits, including, but not limited to, retirement, survivors' and disability benefits, supplemental security income benefits, exempt benefits paid by the federal Railroad Retirement Board or the federal Office of Personnel Management, unemployment compensation benefits exempt under section 52-352b, or child support payments processed and received pursuant to Title IV-D of the Social Security Act were made to the judgment debtor's account during the [thirtyday look-back period of either the sixty-day period preceding the date that the execution was served on the financial institution, or, with regard to federal benefits, such greater period as required by federal law, then the financial institution shall leave the lesser of the account balance or one thousand dollars in the judgment debtor's account, provided nothing in this subsection shall be construed to limit a financial institution's right or obligation to remove such funds from the

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judgment debtor's account if required by any other provision of law or by a court order. The judgment debtor shall have <u>full and customary</u> access to such funds left in the judgment debtor's account pursuant to this subsection. The financial institution may notify the judgment creditor that funds have been left in the judgment debtor's account pursuant to this subsection. Nothing in this subsection shall alter the exempt status of funds which are exempt from execution under subsection (a) of this section or under any other provision of state or federal law, or the right of a judgment debtor to claim such exemption. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to affect any other rights or obligations of the financial institution with regard to the funds in the judgment debtor's account.

- (d) If any funds are removed from the judgment debtor's account pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, upon receipt of the execution and exemption claim form from the serving officer, the financial institution shall (1) forthwith mail copies thereof, postage prepaid, to the judgment debtor and to any secured party that is party to a control agreement between the financial institution and such secured party under article 9 of title 42a at the last known address of the judgment debtor and of any such secured party with respect to the affected accounts on the records of the financial institution, and (2) mail notice to the judgment debtor as required by 31 CFR 212.6 and 212.7. The financial institution shall hold the amount removed from the judgment debtor's account pursuant to subsection (c) of this section for fifteen days from the date of the mailing to the judgment debtor and any such secured party, and during such period shall not pay the serving officer.
- (e) To prevent the financial institution from paying the serving officer, as provided in subsection (h) of this section, the judgment debtor shall give notice of a claim of exemption by delivering to the financial institution, by mail or other means, the exemption claim form or other written notice that an exemption is being claimed and any such secured party shall give notice of its claim of a prior perfected security interest in such deposit account by delivering to the financial institution, by mail or other means, written notice thereof. The

financial institution may designate an address to which the notice of a claim of exemption, or a secured party claim notice, shall be delivered. Upon receipt of such notice, the financial institution shall, within two business days, send a copy of such notice to the clerk of the court which issued the execution.

- (f) (1) Upon receipt of an exemption claim form or a secured party claim notice, the clerk of the court shall enter the appearance of the judgment debtor or such secured party with the address set forth in the exemption claim form or secured party claim notice. The clerk shall forthwith send file-stamped copies of the exemption claim form or secured party claim notice to the judgment creditor and judgment debtor with a notice stating that the disputed funds are being held for forty-five days from the date the exemption claim form or secured party claim notice was received by the financial institution or until a court order is entered regarding the disposition of the funds, whichever occurs earlier, and the clerk shall automatically schedule the matter for a short calendar hearing. The claim of exemption filed by such judgment debtor shall be prima facie evidence at such hearing of the existence of the exemption.
- (2) Upon receipt of notice from the financial institution pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, a judgment creditor may, on an ex parte basis, present to a judge of the Superior Court an affidavit sworn under oath by a competent party demonstrating a reasonable belief that such judgment debtor's account contains funds which are not exempt from execution and the amount of such nonexempt funds. Such affidavit shall not be conclusory but is required to show the factual basis upon which the reasonable belief is based. If such judge finds that the judgment creditor has demonstrated a reasonable belief that such judgment debtor's account contains funds which are not exempt from execution, such judge shall authorize the judgment creditor to submit a written application to the clerk of the court for a hearing on the exempt status of funds left in the judgment debtor's account pursuant to subsection (c) of this section. The judgment creditor shall promptly send a copy of the application and the

supporting affidavit to the judgment debtor and to any secured party shown on a secured party claim notice sent to the judgment creditor pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection. Upon receipt of such application, the clerk of the court shall automatically schedule the matter for a short calendar hearing and shall give written notice to the judgment creditor, the judgment debtor and any secured party shown on a secured party claim notice received by the clerk of the court. The notice to the judgment creditor pursuant to subsection (c) of this section shall be prima facie evidence at such hearing that the funds in the account are exempt funds. The burden of proof shall be upon the judgment creditor to establish the amount of funds which are not exempt.

- (g) If an exemption claim is made or a secured party claim notice is given pursuant to subsection (e) of this section, the financial institution shall continue to hold the amount removed from the judgment debtor's account for forty-five days or until a court order is received regarding disposition of the funds, whichever occurs earlier. If no such order is received within forty-five days of the date the financial institution sends a copy of the exemption claim form or notice of exemption or a secured party claim notice to the clerk of the court, the financial institution shall return the funds to the judgment debtor's account.
- (h) If no claim of exemption or secured party claim notice is received by the financial institution within fifteen days of the mailing to the judgment debtor and any secured party of the execution and exemption claim form pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, the financial institution shall, upon demand, forthwith pay the serving officer the amount removed from the judgment debtor's account, and the serving officer shall thereupon pay such sum, less such serving officer's fees, to the judgment creditor, except to the extent otherwise ordered by a court.
- (i) The court, after a hearing conducted pursuant to subsection (f) of this section, shall enter an order determining the issues raised by the claim of exemption and claim by a secured party of a prior perfected

security interest in such deposit account. The clerk of the court shall forthwith send a copy of such order to the financial institution. Such order shall be deemed to be a final judgment for the purposes of appeal. No appeal shall be taken except within seven days of the rendering of the order. The order of the court may be implemented during such seven-day period, unless stayed by the court.

- (j) [If] Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c) of this section, if both exempt and nonexempt moneys have been deposited into an account, for the purposes of determining which moneys are exempt under this section, the moneys most recently deposited as of the time the execution is served shall be deemed to be the moneys remaining in the account.
- (k) The execution, exemption claim form and clerk's notice regarding the filing of a claim of exemption shall be in such form as prescribed by the judges of the Superior Court or their designee. The exemption claim form shall be dated and include a checklist and description of the most common exemptions, instructions on the manner of claiming the exemptions and a space for the judgment debtor to certify those exemptions claimed under penalty of false statement.
- (l) If records or testimony are subpoenaed from a financial institution in connection with a hearing conducted pursuant to subsection (f) of this section, the reasonable costs and expenses of the financial institution in complying with the subpoena shall be recoverable by the financial institution from the party requiring such records or testimony, provided, the financial institution shall be under no obligation to attempt to obtain records or documentation relating to the account executed against which are held by any other financial institution. The records of a financial institution as to the dates and amounts of deposits into an account in the financial institution shall, if certified as true and accurate by an officer of the financial institution, be admissible as evidence without the presence of the officer in any hearing conducted pursuant to subsection (f) of this section to

determine the legitimacy of a claim of exemption made under this section.

(m) If there are moneys to be removed from the judgment debtor's account, prior to the removal of such moneys pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, the financial institution shall receive from the serving officer as representative of the judgment creditor a fee of eight dollars for the financial institution's costs in complying with the provisions of this section which fee may be recoverable by the judgment creditor as a taxable cost of the action.

(n) If the financial institution fails or refuses to pay over to the serving officer the amount of such debt, not exceeding the amount due on such execution, such financial institution shall be liable in an action therefor to the judgment creditor named in such execution for the amount of nonexempt moneys which the financial institution failed or refused to pay over, excluding funds of up to one thousand dollars which the financial institution in good faith allowed the judgment debtor to access pursuant to subsection (c) of this section. The amount so recovered by such judgment creditor shall be applied toward the payment of the amount due on such execution. Thereupon, the rights of the financial institution shall be subrogated to the rights of the judgment creditor. If such financial institution pays exempt moneys from the account of the judgment debtor over to the serving officer contrary to the provisions of this section, such financial institution shall be liable in an action therefor to the judgment debtor for any exempt moneys so paid and such financial institution shall refund or waive any charges or fees by the financial institution, including, but not limited to, dishonored check fees, overdraft fees or minimum balance service charges and legal process fees, which were assessed as a result of such payment of exempt moneys. Thereupon, the rights of the financial institution shall be subrogated to the rights of the judgment debtor.

(o) Except as provided in subsection (n) of this section, no financial institution or any officer, director or employee of such financial

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institution shall be liable to any person with respect to any act done or omitted in good faith or through the commission of a bona fide error that occurred despite reasonable procedures maintained by the financial institution to prevent such errors in complying with the provisions of this section.

- (p) Nothing in this section shall in any way restrict the rights and remedies otherwise available to a judgment debtor or any such secured party at law or in equity.
 - (q) Nothing in this section shall in any way affect any rights of the financial institution with respect to uncollected funds credited to the account of the judgment debtor, which rights shall be superior to those of the judgment creditor.
- (r) For the purposes of this subsection, "exempt" shall have the same meaning as provided in subsection (c) of section 52-352a. Funds deposited in an account that has been established for the express purpose of receiving electronic direct deposits of public assistance or of Title IV-D child support payments from the Department of Social Services shall be exempt.
 - Sec. 18. Subsection (b) of section 52-367b of the general statutes, as amended by section 14 of public act 12-89, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):
- (b) If execution is desired against any such debt, the plaintiff requesting the execution shall make application to the clerk of the court. The application shall be accompanied by a fee of seventy-five dollars payable to the clerk of the court for the administrative costs of complying with the provisions of this section which fee may be recoverable by the judgment creditor as a taxable cost of the action. In a IV-D case, the request for execution shall be accompanied by an affidavit signed by the serving officer attesting to an overdue support amount of five hundred dollars or more which accrued after the entry of an initial family support judgment. If the papers are in order, the clerk shall issue such execution containing a direction that the officer

serving such execution shall, within seven days from the receipt by the serving officer of such execution, make demand (1) upon the main office of any financial institution having its main office within the county of the serving officer, or (2) if such main office is not within the serving officer's county and such financial institution has one or more branch offices within such county, upon an employee of such a branch office, such employee and branch office having been designated by the financial institution in accordance with regulations adopted by the Banking Commissioner, in accordance with chapter 54, for payment of any such nonexempt debt due to the judgment debtor and, after having made such demand, shall serve a true and attested copy of the execution, together with the affidavit and exemption claim form prescribed by subsection (k) of this section, with the serving officer's actions endorsed thereon, with the financial institution officer upon whom such demand is made. The serving officer shall not serve more than one financial institution execution per judgment debtor at a time, including copies thereof. After service of an execution on one financial institution, the serving officer shall not serve the same execution or a copy thereof upon another financial institution until receiving confirmation from the preceding financial institution that the judgment debtor had insufficient funds at the preceding financial institution available for collection to satisfy the execution, provided any such additional service is made not later than forty-five days from the receipt by the serving officer of such execution. After service of an execution on a financial institution, the serving officer shall not subsequently serve the same execution or a copy thereof upon such financial institution if an electronic direct deposit from a readily identifiable source described in subsection (c) of this section was made to the judgment debtor's account during the look-back period, as defined in subsection (c) of this section. If no such deposit was made, the serving officer may subsequently serve the same execution or a copy thereof upon such institution, provided such execution has not expired or otherwise become unenforceable.

Sec. 19. Section 36a-760 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2014*):

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951 (a) As used in this section and sections 36a-760a to 36a-760j, 952 inclusive:

- 953 (1) "APR" has the same meaning as provided in section 36a-746a, as amended by this act;
- 955 (2) "CHFA loan" means a loan made, insured, purchased, subsidized 956 or guaranteed by the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority;
- 957 (3) "FHA loan" means a loan made, insured, purchased, subsidized 958 or guaranteed by the Federal Housing Administration;
- 959 (4) "First mortgage loan" has the same meaning as provided in section 36a-485, as amended by this act;
 - (5) "Lender" means any person engaged in the business of the making of mortgage loans who is required to be licensed by the Department of Banking under chapter 668, or such person's successors or assigns, and also means any bank, out-of-state bank, Connecticut credit union, federal credit union, out-of-state credit union, or an operating subsidiary of a federal bank or a federally chartered out-of-state bank where such subsidiary engages in the business of making mortgage loans, and their successors and assigns, but does not include any mortgage broker, as defined in this section, or any mortgage loan originator, as defined in section 36a-485, as amended by this act;
 - (6) "Mortgage broker" means any person, other than a lender, who (A) for a fee, commission or other valuable consideration, negotiates, solicits, arranges, places or finds a mortgage, and (B) who is required to be licensed by the Department of Banking under chapter 668, or such person's successors or assigns;
 - (7) "Nonprime home loan" means any loan or extension of credit, excluding an open-end line of credit, any mortgage insured under Title II of the National Housing Act, 12 USC 1701 et seq. that satisfies the requirements for a qualified mortgage set forth in 78 Federal Register 75215 (December 11, 2013), and [further excluding] a reverse mortgage transaction, as defined in 12 CFR [226.33] 1026.33, as amended from

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- 983 (A) In which the borrower is a natural person;
- 984 (B) The proceeds of which are to be used primarily for personal family or household purposes;
- 986 (C) In which the loan is secured by a mortgage upon any interest in 987 one-to-four family residential real property located in this state which 988 is, or when the loan is made, intended to be used or occupied by the 989 borrower as a principal residence;
- 990 (D) In which the principal amount of the loan does not exceed four 991 hundred seventeen thousand dollars;
- 992 (E) Where the loan is not a CHFA loan; and
- 993 (F) In which the conditions set forth in clauses (i) and (ii) of this 994 subparagraph apply, subject to any adjustments made pursuant to 995 clause (iii) of this subparagraph:
 - (i) The difference, at the time of consummation, between the APR for the loan and the conventional mortgage rate is either equal to or greater than (I) one and three-quarters percentage points, if the loan is a first mortgage loan, or (II) three and three-quarters percentage points, if the loan is a secondary mortgage loan. For purposes of such calculation, "conventional mortgage rate" means the most recent contract interest rate on commitments for fixed-rate mortgages published by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System in its statistical release H.15, or any publication that may supersede it, during the week preceding the week in which the interest rate for the loan is set. For purposes of determining the beginning of each weekly period, the first day of each week shall be the effective date for the applicable prime offer rate, as of the date the interest rate is set, as determined in accordance with subparagraph (F)(ii) of this subdivision.
- 1011 (ii) The difference, at the time of consummation, between the APR

for the loan or extension of credit and the average prime offer rate for a comparable transaction, as of the date the interest rate is set, is greater than one and one-half percentage points if the loan is a first mortgage loan or three and one-half percentage points if the loan is a secondary mortgage loan. For purposes of this subparagraph, "average prime offer rate" has the meaning as provided in 12 CFR 226.35, as amended from time to time. For purposes of subparagraphs (F)(i) and (F)(ii) of this subdivision, the date the interest rate is set is the last date the interest rate is set, provided the rate is adjusted on or before consummation.

(iii) The commissioner shall have the authority, after consideration of the relevant factors, to increase the percentages set forth in clauses (i) and (ii) of this subparagraph. For purposes of this clause, the relevant factors to be considered by the commissioner shall include, but not be limited to, the existence and amount of increases in fees or charges in connection with purchases of mortgages by the Federal National Mortgage Association or the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation and increases in fees or charges imposed by mortgage insurers and the impact, including the magnitude of the impact, that such increases have had, or will likely have, on APRs for mortgage loans in this state. When considering such factors, the commissioner shall focus on those increases that are related to the deterioration in the housing market and credit conditions. The commissioner may refrain from increasing such percentages if it appears that lenders are increasing interest rates or fees in bad faith or if increasing the percentages would be contrary to the purposes of sections 36a-760 to 36a-760f, inclusive, as amended by this act. No increase authorized by the commissioner to a particular percentage shall exceed one-quarter of one percentage point, and the total of all increases to a particular percentage under this clause shall not exceed one-half of one percentage point. No increase shall be made unless: (I) The increase is noticed in the Banking Department Bulletin and the Connecticut Law Journal, and (II) a public comment period of twenty days is provided. Any increase made under this clause shall be reduced proportionately when the need for the increase has diminished or no longer exists. The

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1047 commissioner, in the exercise of his discretion, may authorize an 1048 increase in the percentages with respect to all loans or just with respect 1049 to a certain class or classes of loans;

- (8) "Open-end line of credit" means a mortgage extended by a lender under a plan in which: (A) The lender reasonably contemplates repeated transactions; (B) the lender may impose a finance charge from time to time on an outstanding unpaid balance; (C) the amount of credit that may be extended to the consumer during the term of the plan, up to any limit set by the lender, is generally made available to the extent that any outstanding balance is repaid; and (D) none of the proceeds of the open-end line of credit are used at closing to (i) purchase the borrower's primary residence, or (ii) refinance a mortgage loan that had been used by the borrower to purchase the borrower's primary residence;
- 1061 (9) "Secondary mortgage loan" has the same meaning as provided in section 36a-485, as amended by this act.
 - (b) The provisions of sections 36a-760a to 36a-760i, inclusive, shall be applicable to nonprime home loans and mortgages, as appropriate, for which applications have been received on or after August 1, 2008.
- Sec. 20. Section 36a-308 of the 2014 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
- 1069 (a) For purposes of this section, "savings promotion raffle" means a 1070 raffle conducted by a Connecticut credit union [, as defined in section 1071 36a-2,] or a [community] Connecticut bank, as such terms are defined 1072 in section [36a-70] 36a-2, where the sole consideration required for a 1073 chance of winning designated prizes is the deposit of a minimum 1074 specified amount of money in a savings account or other savings 1075 program offered by such Connecticut credit union or [community] 1076 Connecticut bank.
 - (b) Any Connecticut credit union or [community] Connecticut bank

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Ithat has secure financial integrity, as determined by the Banking Commissioner, may conduct a savings promotion raffle, provided the Connecticut credit union or [community] Connecticut bank (1) conducts the savings promotion raffle in a manner that (A) ensures that each entry has an equal chance of winning the designated prize, [and] (B) does not jeopardize the safety and soundness of the Connecticut credit union or Connecticut bank, and (C) complies with applicable consumer protection laws, (2) fully discloses the terms and conditions of the savings promotion raffle to each of its [share] account holders, [as defined in section 36a-2, or account holders, and] (3) maintains records sufficient to facilitate an audit of such savings promotion raffle, and (4) submits written notice to the commissioner not less than thirty days prior to conducting the savings promotion raffle. Only [a share account holder or] an account holder who is eighteen years of age or older may participate in a savings promotion raffle under this section.

(c) The Banking Commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to carry out the provisions of this section.

Sec. 21. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2014) A mortgagee, as defined in section 49-31k of the general statutes, shall provide a mortgagor, as defined in said section, with a certificate of good standing, at the request of such mortgagor, if such mortgagor has successfully completed the foreclosure mediation program established pursuant to section 49-31m of the general statutes and has remained current on mortgage payments for a period of three or more years following the completion of such program. For purposes of this section, "certificate of good standing" means a letter stating that the mortgagor has paid each mortgage payment in a timely fashion, as determined by the mortgagee.

This act shall	l take effect as follows and	shall amend the following
sections:		
Section 1	from naccage	362 485(3)

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Sec. 2	from passage	36a-800(2)
Sec. 3	from passage	36a-671d(a) and (b)
Sec. 4	from passage	36a-671d(e)(2)
Sec. 5	from passage	36a-746a
Sec. 6	from passage	36a-746c(1)
Sec. 7	from passage	36a-758
Sec. 8	from passage	36a-760e(a)(3)
Sec. 9	from passage	36a-671
Sec. 10	from passage	36a-671a(a)
Sec. 11	from passage	36a-486(b)(1)
Sec. 12	from passage	36a-492(d)(3) to (6)
Sec. 13	from passage	36a-17(a)
Sec. 14	October 1, 2014	36b-33(g)
Sec. 15	October 1, 2014	36b-33(h)
Sec. 16	October 1, 2014	36b-62(e) and (f)
Sec. 17	October 1, 2014	52-367b
Sec. 18	July 1, 2015	52-367b(b)
Sec. 19	October 1, 2014	36a-760
Sec. 20	from passage	36a-308
Sec. 21	July 1, 2014	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

For purposes of consistency with section 17, "sixty-day period preceding the date of the subsequent service or, with regard to federal benefit, such greater period of time preceding such date as is required by federal law" was changed to "look-back period, as defined in subsection (c) of this section" in section 18; and for purposes of accuracy, "24 CFR 203.19, as amended from time to time" was changed to "78 Federal Register 75215 (December 11, 2013)" in section 19(a)(7).

BA Joint Favorable Subst.

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 15 \$	FY 16 \$
Banking Dept.	BF - Savings	less than	less than
		500	500

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a savings of less than \$500 to the Department of Banking as it allows service of process to be made by certified mail, return receipt requested. Current law requires costlier methods of mailing. The estimate is based on the FY 13 number of service of process mailings (37) and an average postage savings of \$11 per mailing.

The bill makes other changes that have no fiscal impact on the Department of Banking.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis sSB 283

AN ACT CONCERNING THE BANKING LAWS, THE UNIFORM COMMERCIAL CODE, THE ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFER ACT AND MORTGAGORS IN GOOD STANDING.

SUMMARY:

This bill makes a number of unrelated changes. Among other things, it:

- 1. expands the licensure and bond requirements for businesses that make residential mortgage loans or act as mortgage lenders, mortgage correspondent lenders, or mortgage brokers that engage the services of mortgage loan originators to act on their behalf;
- 2. creates a bond requirement for certain bona fide nonprofit organizations that are exempt from mortgage broker licensure and choose to sponsor a mortgage loan originator;
- 3. limits the recovery of judgments against a debt negotiator's bond by prospective mortgagors of certain types of mortgages;
- 4. expands licensure requirements for debt negotiators who are also mortgage loan originators;
- 5. allows service of notice and process to begin a legal proceeding against certain individuals to be made by certified mail, return receipt requested;
- 6. modifies the process by which a debtor's funds held by a financial institution can be obtained to satisfy a judgment, including expanding the circumstances when a bank must leave the lesser of \$1,000 or the balance in a person's account;

7. excludes from the laws governing nonprime home loans, single family mortgages insured or guaranteed by the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development under federal law and regulations;

- 8. expands the types of banks that may offer savings promotion raffles; and
- 9. requires a mortgagee to provide a certificate of good standing to a mortgagor who has completed the foreclosure mediation program, if specified conditions are met.

The bill also makes technical changes, including various references to federal regulations to reflect the transfer of authority from the Federal Reserve System to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. It also corrects improper references (§§ 2, 5-8, and 13).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except for (1) the provision on certificates of good standing, which is effective July 1, 2014; (2) provisions on service of process in certain cases, funds exempt from execution, and nonprime loans, which are effective October 1, 2014; and (3) a conforming change regarding funds exempt from execution, which is effective July 1, 2015.

§§ 1 & 11-12 — MORTGAGE LOAN ORIGINATORS

§ 1 — Branch Offices

The bill expands the licensure and bond requirements for certain businesses that make residential mortgage loans or act as mortgage lenders, mortgage correspondent lenders, or mortgage brokers (i.e., licensees).

By law, a licensee may engage the services of a licensed "mortgage loan originator" but is not required to obtain a license for any location where a mortgage loan originator acts on its behalf. Existing law requires a licensee to do so for its main office and each branch office. The bill classifies a mortgage loan originator's location as a branch office and, in so doing, requires a licensee to (1) obtain a license, (2) file

an addendum to the required bond, and (3) have a branch manager for each location where a licensed mortgage loan originator acts on its behalf. The branch manager at the mortgage loan originator's location must meet the minimum requirements for a branch manager under existing law, which include (1) at least three years' experience in the mortgage business within the five years preceding the license application and (2) prelicensing education.

Under law a "mortgage loan originator" is an individual who, for compensation, (1) takes a residential mortgage loan application or (2) offers or negotiates terms of a residential mortgage loan.

§ 11&12 — Bond Requirement for a Bona fide Nonprofit Organization Sponsoring a Mortgage Loan Originator

The bill creates a bond requirement for certain "bona fide nonprofit organizations" that (1) are exempt from mortgage broker licensing and (2) choose to sponsor a mortgage loan originator (defined above).

By law a "bona fide nonprofit organization" is an organization that files a form with the banking commissioner certifying it has taxexempt status, promotes affordable housing, and serves public or charitable purposes.

By law, a bona fide nonprofit organization is exempt from licensing as a mortgage broker if it acts as a mortgage broker for residential loans made by a corporation or its affiliate to (1) benefit its employees or agents or (2) promote home ownership in urban areas. By law, a bona fide nonprofit organization may sponsor a mortgage loan originator by registering as an exempt registrant on the Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System and Registry (i.e., the system) which is used for licensing and registration mortgage lenders, mortgage correspondent lenders, mortgage brokers, mortgage loan originators, and loan processors or underwriters.

Under current law, a bona fide nonprofit organization that is an exempt registrant is not required to file a surety bond with the commissioner. The bill requires the organization to obtain a bond for

an amount based on its aggregate residential mortgage loan amount during the 12-month period ending July 31 of the current year, as follows:

Aggregate Residential Mortgage Loan Amount	Required Bond Amount
Up to \$30 million	\$50,000
\$30 million up to \$50 million	\$100,000
\$50 million or more	\$150,000

The bill also makes technical changes and corrects an improper reference throughout.

§§ 3-4 & 9-10 — DEBT NEGOTIATORS

§§ 3-4 — Judgment Recovery from Bond Proceeds

The bill limits the recovery of judgments against a debt negotiator's bond by certain prospective mortgagors.

By law, debt negotiators must file a surety bond with the commissioner. Under current law, a mortgagor or prospective mortgagor may recover from the bond, a judgment that the debt negotiator or the sponsored mortgage loan originator failed to satisfy relating to the negotiation of, or offer to negotiate, a nonprime home loan.

Under current law, nonprime home loans include single family mortgages insured or guaranteed by the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development under federal law and regulations (78 Federal Register 75237). This bill no longer classifies such a mortgage as a nonprime loan and by so doing, prevents a prospective mortgagor of such a loan from proceeding against the principal or surety of the bond when the negotiator fails to satisfy a judgment that arises from the negotiation of or offer to negotiate such a mortgage. A mortgagor of such a loan may proceed against the bond under similar provisions in existing law, but those existing provisions do not apply to prospective mortgagors.

§§ 9-10 — Licensure Requirement

The bill expands the licensure requirements for certain debt negotiators.

By law, unless otherwise exempt, a debt negotiator must be licensed as a mortgage loan originator if engaged in the negotiation of a residential mortgage loan on behalf of a mortgagor for compensation or gain. Under current law, any such debt negotiator must comply with all requirements imposed on a mortgage loan originator, such as licensure, bond, and records retention requirements. The bill allows the commissioner to suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue or renew the debt negotiator license of a debt negotiator who violates the mortgage loan originator requirements.

The bill also makes conforming changes and corrects an improper reference.

§§ 14-16 — SERVICE OF PROCESS IN CERTAIN CASES INVOLVING THE BANKING COMMISSIONER

The bill allows service of notice and process to begin a legal proceeding against certain individuals to be made by certified mail, return receipt requested. As under current law, this service can also be by (1) registered mail, return receipt requested or (2) express delivery carrier with a dated delivery receipt.

This applies when the law requires one of the following people to appoint the banking commissioner as his or her agent for service of process:

- 1. applicants for registration with the commissioner under the uniform securities act (such as broker-dealers, investment advisors, and investment advisor agents), investment advisors who are exempt from registration, and certain issuers of securities;
- 2. sellers proposing to sell or offer a business opportunity (the sale and lease of products, equipment, supplies, or services that enable a person to start his or her own business) in Connecticut;

and

3. people who violate these laws, have not filed the required consent to service, and are not subject to personal jurisdiction in Connecticut.

§§ 17-18 — FUNDS EXEMPT FROM EXECUTION IN DEBTOR'S ACCOUNT

The bill modifies the process by which a debtor's funds held by a financial institution ("bank") can be obtained to satisfy a judgment. Specifically, the bill:

- 1. expands the circumstances when a bank must leave the lesser of \$1,000 or the balance in a person's account when paying funds under an execution,
- 2. limits when a serving officer (such as a state marshal) may serve the same execution on the same bank, and
- 3. makes other minor changes to the execution laws.

Amount Left in Account and Readily Identifiable Deposits

By law, a creditor may obtain a court-ordered judgment against someone who owes the creditor money (debtor). The creditor may have an execution issued by the court served on any bank where the debtor has an account. Certain funds are exempt from execution if the debtor claims the exemption.

Current law requires the bank to leave in the account the lesser of \$1,000 or the account balance if, in the 30 days before the execution was served on the bank, an electronic direct deposit was made to the account that is readily identifiable as one of the following: (1) federal veterans' benefits, (2) Social Security benefits, or (3) child support payments the state collects and electronically deposits into a parent's bank account. The bill expands application of this rule in two ways:

1. it applies this rule when an account receives electronic direct deposits that are readily identifiable as (a) exempt benefits paid

by the federal Railroad Retirement Board or Office of Personnel Management (which includes federal civil service retirement benefits) or (b) unemployment benefits and

2. it lengthens the look-back period for all of these readily identifiable deposits from 30 to 60 days or a longer period if required by federal law for a federal benefit.

The law requires the debtor to have access to funds left in the account. The bill specifies that this must be full and customary access to the funds.

Repeat Service of Executions on Banks

The bill prohibits a serving officer from subsequently serving the same execution (or a copy of it) on the same bank when an electronic direct deposit from one of the readily identifiable sources described above was made to the debtor's account during the look-back period described above (presumably the period before subsequent service). Otherwise, the bill allows subsequent service of the execution as long as the execution has not expired or become unenforceable.

Notice

When funds are removed from an account, the law requires the bank to mail a copy of the execution and exemption claim form to the debtor. The bill additionally requires mailing notice to the debtor as required by federal regulation for certain federal benefits. Federal regulations require a bank to send a readily understandable notice with certain information when a benefit agency deposits a benefit payment into the account. The notice must, among other things, identify the federal benefits involved and explain garnishment, the bank's obligations under federal law, and the state law's requirements to freeze funds (31 CFR 212.7).

§ 19 — NONPRIME LOANS

The bill excludes from the laws governing nonprime home loans, single family mortgages insured or guaranteed by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development under federal law

and regulations (see 12 USC § 1701 et seq. and 78 Federal Register 75237, which adds new regulations on qualified mortgages). Under the federal regulations, these mortgages must meet certain requirements regarding maximum points, fees, and interest rates that relate to the borrower's ability to repay the loan.

The law governing nonprime home loans imposes various requirements on making these loans, and restricts allowable provisions in such loans. In practice, a nonprime home loan is one generally made to a relatively risky borrower and that thus has a higher interest rate and stricter repayment terms.

§ 20 — SAVINGS PROMOTION RAFFLES

This bill expands the types of banks that may offer savings promotion raffles under specified conditions.

By law, a "savings promotion raffle" is a raffle in which an account holder who is at least age 18 deposits a minimum specified amount of money in a savings account or savings program for a chance to win designated prizes. Each entry in the raffle must have an equal chance of winning.

The bill allows all bank and trust companies, savings banks, or savings and loan associations chartered or organized under Connecticut law to offer savings promotion raffles. Current law limits these raffles to Connecticut credit unions and community banks the commissioner deems to be financially secure. (A community bank is a Connecticut bank with a minimum equity capital of at least \$3 million.)

The bill also expands the requirements for institutions seeking to offer savings promotion raffles. Existing law requires such institutions to (1) fully disclose the savings promotion raffle terms and conditions and (2) maintain records sufficient to facilitate a related audit. The bill also requires the institutions to (1) comply with applicable consumer protection laws, (2) not jeopardize their safety and soundness, and (3) submit written notice to the commissioner 30 days prior to conducting the raffle.

§ 21 — MEDIATION PROGRAM CERTIFICATE OF GOOD STANDING

The bill requires mortgagees (i.e., the owner or servicer of a mortgage debt) to provide a "certificate of good standing" to a mortgagor (i.e., the homeowner) who has (1) requested such certificate, (2) successfully completed the state's foreclosure mediation program, and (3) remained current on the mortgage payment for three years after completing the program.

The bill defines a "certificate of good standing" as a letter stating that the mortgagor has made each mortgage payment in a timely fashion, as determined by the mortgagee.

The state's foreclosure mediation program determines whether parties can reach an agreement that will avoid foreclosure. The program uses the judicial branch's foreclosure mediators to conduct mediation sessions in a statutorily prescribed timeframe. Under existing law, the program will sunset on July 1, 2014.

BACKGROUND

Related Bills

sHB 5353, favorably reported by the Banks Committee, among other things, (1) limits the exemptions from mortgage lender, mortgage correspondent lender, mortgage broker, and debt negotiator licensure that apply to certain subsidiaries of banks and credit unions; (2) narrows the scope of the exemption from mortgage loan originator licensure applicable to certain attorneys; and (3) extends the foreclosure mediation program by four years, until July 1, 2018.

HB 5483 (File 99), favorably reported by the Housing Committee, extends the foreclosure mediation program by four years, until July 1, 2018. It also adds the Housing Committee to the required recipients of two reports the Judicial Branch's chief court administrator must submit concerning the foreclosure mediation program.

SB 57 (File 17), favorably reported by the Labor Committee, expands the types of deposits that are automatically exempt up to \$1,000 from

bank executions against a judgment debtor's account to include electronic direct deposits that are readily identifiable as wages.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Banks Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Yea 17 Nay 0 (03/18/2014)